IN THE CLAIMS

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring, from a remote location comprising a monitor and control unit, operations of a head-end in an information distribution system, the method comprising:

receiving at the monitor and control unit status from the head-end relating to operations performed at the head-end;

<u>displaying, via a graphical user interface, at the monitor and control unit the status from the head-end relating to operations performed at the head-end;</u>

<u>providing, via the graphical user interface, a user configurable menu to define error conditions;</u>

<u>providing, via the graphical user interface, an option to activate an audible alert when error conditions are detected;</u>

receiving identities of a plurality of remote devices designated to receive status from the head-end via the monitor and control unit;

receiving an indication of capabilities of each remote device of the plurality of remote devices designated to receive status;

forwarding at least a subset of the received status from the monitor and control unit to the plurality of remote devices, wherein status are forwarded to each remote device of the plurality of remote devices in conformance with the indicated capabilities;

receiving a response message from a particular remote device; and

forwarding the response message to the head-end wherein the received response message from the particular remote device includes a command to adjust at least one parameter of a particular operation performed at the head-end.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving indications of ~~possible~~ error conditions relating to the one or more operations; and

forwarding one or more alert messages to the one or more remote devices in response to receiving the indications <u>when the audible alert is activated</u>.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

polling a plurality of head-ends for status relating to the operations of each head-end.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicated capabilities for each remote device is indicated as text, graphics, or a combination thereof.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an indication of a particular reporting level for each remote device designated to receive status, and

wherein status are forwarded to each of the one or more remote devices in conformance with the indicated reporting level.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received status includes status relating to encoding operations performed at the head-end.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the status relating to the encoding operations includes status for one or more buffers used to store encoded data at the head-end.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received status includes status relating to multiplexing operations performed at the head-end.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received status includes status relating to a particular transport stream transmitted from the head-end.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the received status include bit rates for a plurality of types of data being provided from the head-end.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of remote devices is a pager.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of remote devices is a cellular telephone.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of remote devices is a wireless device.

18. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the status and messages are forwarded via a standard messaging protocol.

19. (currently amended) A method for monitoring, from a remote location, operation of a head-end in an information distribution system, the method comprising:

at the remote location, receiving information from the head-end relating to one or more operations performed at the head-end, wherein the received information includes status and indications of possible error conditions relating to the one or more operations performed at the head-end;

displaying, via a graphical user interface, at a monitor and control unit the received information;

<u>providing, via the graphical user interface, a user configurable menu to</u> <u>define error conditions;</u>

<u>providing, via the graphical user interface, an option to activate an audible</u> <u>alert when error conditions are detected;</u>

receiving, at the remote location, identities and indications of capabilities of one or more remote devices designated to receive the information relating to the one or more operations performed at the head-end; and

forwarding at least a subset of the received information from the remote location to the one or more remote devices in conformance with the indicated capabilities;

receiving a response message from a particular remote device; and

forwarding the response message to the head-end wherein the received response message from the particular remote device includes a command to adjust at least one parameter of a particular operation performed at the head-end.

20. (currently amended) A method for remotely monitoring and controlling operation of a head-end in an information distribution system, comprising:

maintaining identities and indications of capabilities of one or more remote devices designated to receive information relating to one or more operations performed at the head-end;

<u>displaying, via a graphical user interface, at a monitor and control unit the</u> <u>received information;</u>

<u>providing, via the graphical user interface, a user configurable menu to</u> <u>define error conditions;</u>

<u>providing, via the graphical user interface, an option to activate an audible</u> <u>alert when error conditions are detected;</u>

providing, from a remote location to one or more remote devices, status from the head-end relating to one or more operations performed at the head-end in conformance with the indicated capabilities;

receiving, at the remote location, from a particular remote device one or more response messages; and

adjusting at least one parameter of a particular operation performed at the head-end in accordance with the one or more response messages.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

providing to the one or more remote devices indications of ~~possible~~ error conditions relating to the one or more operations performed at the head-end <u>when the audible alert is activated</u>.